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City Adds Link To Website Concerning Sex Offenders

For Immediate Release

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(December 15, 2005- TROY)- Acting on a request from Councilman Art Judge, the City of Troy and Mayor Harry Tutunjian have added a link to the City's website concerning registered sex offenders in the Capital District.

The website, www.familywatchdog.us, was developed by John Walsh and Julie Clark as a tool to aid parents in keeping their children safe should a sex offender move into a persons neighborhood. The website provides a mapping tool indicating where sex offenders live, provides photo's with information on the crime committed by each individual, and also indicates how many offenders live within a half mile distant of schools.

"I urge all members of our city to visit this website. It is a valuable tool in making people aware of registered sex offenders in your neighborhood," said Judge. "I believe this will also be a valuable tool for members of our school districts in helping them to identify potential threats and in protecting our children."

Mayor Tutunjian said Thursday he agreed with Councilman Judge, believing there are never be enough tools to help parents keep their children safe.

"Many of the websites you see concerning sex offenders are difficult to navigate," Tutunjian said. "That is not the case with this website. It is easy to use and provides valuable information to the community."

John Walsh is best known for his hit television series, "America's Most Wanted." His 6-year old son Adam was abducted and murdered in 1981. Since then, he has worked as a crusader for victim's rights and was key to the development of the Federal Missing Children Act, the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and has helped to enact numerous state and local laws. Julie Clark is founder of 'The Baby Einstein' company.

The web site provides information on Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders and also provides safety tips to parents and children.

"People often assume that Level 2 and Level 3 sex offender lists include only data on child molesters," Judge said. "That is not the case; they also include rapists and other sexual predators. That is why it is important that all members of Troy, not just parents, visit this site and become familiar with offenders in their area. Sexual predators have shown time and again that young or old can become the next victim of a sex crime."

Information about registered sex offenders in Troy can be found at www.troyny.gov

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